

Economics 2334
Perspectives on Economic Development
Fall 2018

Instructor: Professor Weina Zhou

Lecture: Tuesday and Thursday 13:05-14:25, Sir James Dunn 135

Office Hour: Thursday 2:30pm-4:30pm; Friday 9:30am-10:30pm

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Prerequisites:

Econ 1101, 1102

Course Description:

The goal of this course is to expose you to current research in development economics. The topics range from the very definition of development economics to specific debates like the effectiveness of microcredit or the importance of institutions versus geography. Not everything will be presented as a debate, but instead will inform you of current issues in development economics.

Recommended Textbook:

Giorgio Secondi, The Development Economics Reader, Routledge

Website:

You can access to course materials through Brightspace. Please check the course website frequently for new announcements.

Evaluation: Students will be evaluated on the basis of four course requirements:

1. Midterm (25%) A closed-book midterm will be held in the class on October 18.
2. Group Research Paper (25%) You will be assigned to a group to complete a research paper. Each group consists of three or four students. I will provide a list of research topics in October. Each group should choose a topic from the list (on a first come, first served basis). Detailed requirements of the research paper will be provided in February. Group assignments will be made on October 4. Each group is also required to make a 25 minutes presentation of your research paper in class (e.g., using powerpoint). Group presentation will be taken place in the last class(es) of the term. The final paper is due on December 6.
3. Final (35%) A closed-book final exam will be held during the final exam period, December 6-16.

Travel arrangements must not be made that will conflict with the final examination period.

4. Attendance and Class Participation (15%) I will randomly take attendance several times during the term. We will also have in-class group discussion throughout the term. You are encouraged to join the discussion and will be evaluated by your performance.

Note: All cell phones must be turned off when class starts and remain off until class is over. Using cell phones (texting, reading e-mail, etc.) will not be tolerated. Violation of this policy will result in a 20% reduction from the Attendance and Class Participation grade per incident.

Grading Scheme:

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
90-100	85-89	80-84	77-79	73-76	70-72	65-69	60-64	55-59	50-54	<50

Policies on Missed Materials:

If a student miss the midterm for a valid medical reason (doctor notes are required), all the weight of that midterm will be shifted to the final. If a student miss the final exam for a valid medical reason, you must notify the instructor immediately (within 48 hours), provide appropriate medical documentation, and make arrangements to write a *comprehensive* make-up exam as soon as health permits. Note that only original medical notes, complying with university guidelines on illness will be considered. If exemption is not granted, a grade of zero will stand.

No late group research paper will be accepted. There will be no exceptions.

Course Coverage:

1. Poverty trap
2. Social experiments
3. Health
4. Education
5. Microfinance
6. Political economy

Other General Notes:

Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests and exams should make their request to the Advising and Access Services Center (AASC) prior to or at the outset of the regular academic year. Please visit www.dal.ca/access for more information and to obtain the Request for Accommodation - Form A.

Please note the Department of Economics Statement on Academic Integrity posted on the course website. As part of an academic community it is your responsibility to be aware of

appropriate conduct. Any academic offence will be reported and acted upon immediately by Dalhousie administration.

Writing Center Information:

Writing expectations at university are higher than you will have experienced at high school (or if you are entering a master's or PhD program, the expectations are higher than at lower levels). The Writing Centre is a Student Service academic unit that supports your writing development. Make an appointment to discuss your writing. Learning more about the writing process and discipline-specific practices and conventions will allow you to adapt more easily to your field of study.